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Portland, OR 97220

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OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE

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EPA-REGION 10

U.S. EPA  
ATTN: Harbor Comments  
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Portland, OR 97205

I have lived in Portland for 29 years. I want the Willamette River to be cleaned up, but I am not happy with the current plan to do so. It does not make any logical sense at all to dig up buried toxins when the river is working on naturally restoring itself. Cleanup workers should not be exposed to substances that could cause them a lot of harm and damage unless there is a really compelling reason. Unfortunately, the plan does not seem to be based on the most current research, which would show how much the riverbed has been purified already. Relying on outdated data is not going to help accomplish what needs to be done.

A billion dollars is a lot of money to spend to risk re-contaminating the river. Of course, it is Portland residents who will pay the price. I'm on a fixed income, so if they start charging the cost to the taxpayers, it's going to make it really hard. I might not even be able to pay important bills, like my electric bill, at all. This money would be much better spent on conservation efforts or helping the city of Portland itself. I like to take the occasional trip to the waterfront, but I would definitely not go if there was always machinery spewing smoke into the air. I would avoid the area completely. I am sure businesses wouldn't be happy. With obnoxious machinery pushing customers away, they will lose money, and it will be harder for them to make a profit. The EPA should enlist the help of the community in designing an approach that takes their concerns into account.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)